THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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Photograph by Jackie Lynch

Avoid stress during holiday travel

Traveling during the holiday season can be stressful, but with a few tips, it can be avoided.

BY FRANCINE ROSARIO
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - Holiday travel for students can take on a different meaning. While many students love going home, they may not like how expensive and long some trips might be.

"It's expensive to fly home," junior Jessica Woods said, who lives in New Hampshire and flies home every holiday break. "It sucks that the dates are not flexible enough, which makes for a more expensive trip."

So, does anyone have advice on when to fly?

Well, according to About.com, December 1-4 are low fare days, which mean they are the best days to travel. However, these days are too early for any student to travel because of final exams, which are usually the week before a university closes for break; therefore, it's impossible for a student to travel between these days. The solution to this phase of holiday travel is to buy early. However, according to Priceline.com, during the Christmas/Hanukkah period, consumers will save the most money by flying on December 17, 19, 20, 25, 28, 29 and January 3 — all off-peak days. However, expect to pay the most money for a ticket on December 22, 23, and 30.

"The price of traveling home can definitely be very expensive," said sophomore Maries Prescott.

According to About.com's guide to travel, Mark Kahler, students might find a great deal "at a smallish airport." Kahler saved $218 (from $306 to $88 round trip) when he drove into Kentucky from Tennessee to fly to Cincinnati, Ohio. Of course, in many cases this is impossible. At Saint Leo University driving to a small airport, such as the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport, is going to take a long time, so that might not be an option. Another option is to travel to the Orlando airport. Although it's not small, it sometimes has better prices than Tampa International. Student's can compare ticket prices and see if it's worth the trip.

A student airfare finder, like studentuniverse.com or sidestep.com, is also a great way to save money because it allows students to compare prices and airports. They both have numerous deals for college students.

Air-Tran Airways can also be of help; students can always fly standby for $59 each way, but it is only available for 18 to 22-year-olds.

Once travel plans are made, Southwest Airline gives great advice to avoid crowds and stress in the airport. First, check in online. It allows people to avoid the long lines, and if travelers are not checking bags, it takes them right to security. Second, make a list and check it twice. College is stressful enough without leaving something important at school and not being able to get it. Making a list helps avoid this.

Most of all, be patient. Realize in advance there will be congestion, and a little patience can make any situation more tolerable.

After the ticket-purchasing stress is over, the list is made, and the online check-in is complete, then relax. Home and home-cooked meals are right around the corner.

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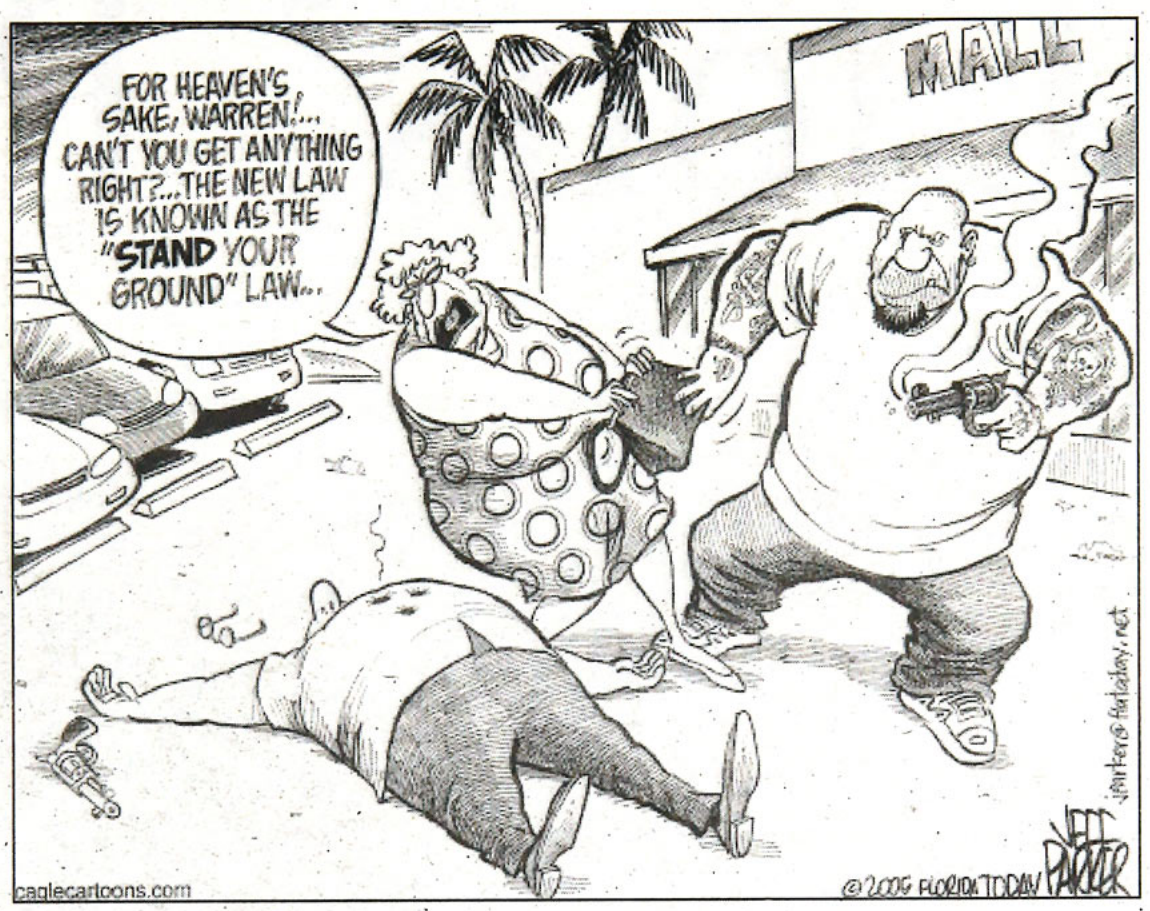
EDITORIAL

Welcome to the wild Sunshine State

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
Lions' Pride Staff Writer


FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, WARREN!... CAN'T YOU GET ANYTHING RIGHT?...THE NEW LAW IS KNOWN AS THE "STAND YOUR GROUND" LAW...
MALL
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"Warning: Florida residents can use deadly force. Thinking about a Florida vacation? Please ensure your family is safe."

To the other states and overseas countries whose papers were littered with variations of this advertisement after the new "Stand Your Ground" law was put into effect in early October, the Sunshine State does not sound as appealing as it used to. In addition to these ads, a red and black billboard is planned for at least one highway at the entrance to Florida warning visitors to enter at their own risk.

The "Stand Your Ground" law immunizes citizens who use deadly force in self-defense against criminal prosecution and civil liability; this includes deadly force used outside the person's home. It isn't enough Florida has to deal with hurricanes and ridiculously high gas prices, now its residence and visitors have to worry about a new level of road rage and the possibility that selling girl scout cookies or trick-or-treating could be considered a threat.

This law is an expansion of the Castle Doctrine, which was passed 18 years ago. This doctrine originated from an English common-law notion that every citizen had the right to protect his or her castle; under this law, a castle could be the confines of a new BMW on a busy city street or a mansion in the countryside. Marion Hammer, president of Unified Sportsmen of Florida and a former president of the National Rifle Association, was the force behind getting the bill passed in the House with a 94-20 voting ratio.

"Law abiding people have a right to have government on their side, not the side of criminals," said Hammer.

However, what Hammer is not take into account, what he did not think about, is far more important than what he is thinking about. Hammer's shoot first think later attitude is overlooking the fact that according to the National Rifle Association after the concealed weapon law was passed in 1987, more than 350,000 Floridians now hold concealed weapons permits. The national average of death by fire arms is 10.5 per 100,000 people, and Florida is above that average with 11.3 per 100,000 people. This "make my day" law is "just a license to kill," said Sarah Brady of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. This campaign was named after Jim Brady, Sarah Brady's husband, who was seriously injured by a gun shot wound during an assassination attempt during the Reagan presidency in 1981.

"This law is not a deterrent; it sets a terrible precedent. At ballgames, in bars, on the streets, this is going to endanger the lives of innocent folks and put them in the line of fire, just like my husband was," said Brady.

What Hammer is thinking about is returning Florida to the wild west days where cowboys stood at ten paces and shot point blank to settle their differences; now, it is going to be soccer moms coming out of Wal-Mart or politicians on the steps of the White House.

This new law seems like it is working more for the criminals rather than the victims because the law now gives them the option to commit the crime without having to receive any punishment. Even law enforcement officials do not agree with the extremes of the law. Miami Police Chief John Timoney and Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne spoke against it, warning that it is ripe for misuse. However, due to the righteousness of politics, many democrats admitted they did not want to appear soft on crime by voting against it.

Hammer mentioned that gun owners promise to be careful; however, a promise is not worth as much as it use to be. While it is an American's right to bear arms and protect themselves when being threatened, that is no excuse to go over and beyond the boundaries of this law. We teach children that violence is not the way to settle a confrontation, and that lesson needs to keep being taught, but with this new law, the lesson would be more effective if this lesson were to be taught to people of all ages. American citizen's need to read the fine print of this law and make sure they realize just what and how to stand their ground.

WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.

Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship.

All letters are subject to editing.
The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.

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Safety is an issue with personal blog sites

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - Giving credit card numbers and social security numbers was once and still is a scare for many people concerned their identities will be stolen right from their computers. Now imagine the younger generation posting gossip; pictures of friends, family, and themselves; baring their souls; venting; and sharing with others their favorite movies and music through skyrocketing popular blog sites like Myspace, Facebook, Live Journal, and Xanga, just to name a few.

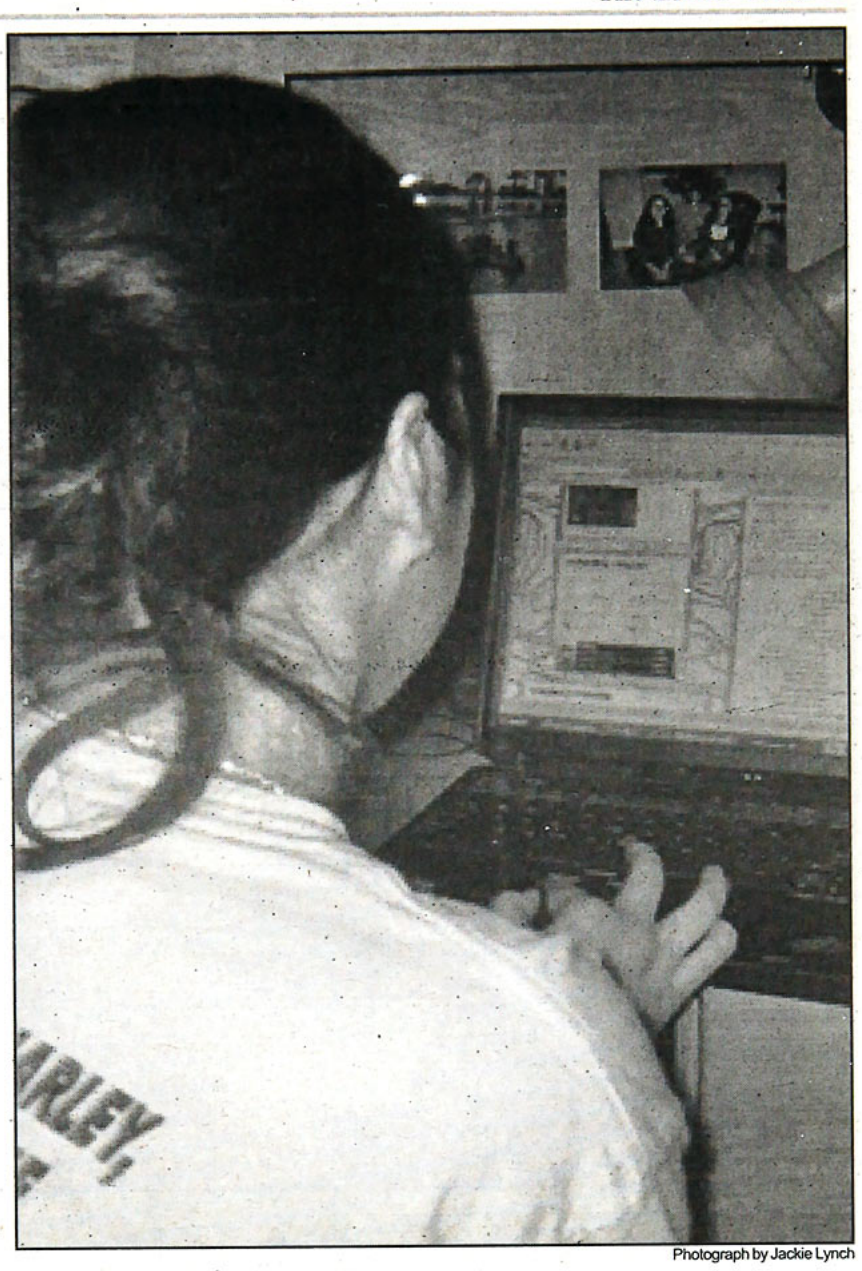
Personal blog sites, such as Facebook and Myspace, have swept the nation for all ages, from junior high all the way to college and beyond. However, are bloggers setting themselves up for backlash with just a few clicks and way too much information? Lately, parents and officials have been questioning whether or not students are advertising too much personal information, which in most cases is available for anyone to view.

While only students with a school e-mail address and password can gain access to Facebook, just about anyone can open a Myspace account. The attraction to these sites has come from the younger generation, teenagers. Researchers have spent time assessing the popularity of publishing one's inner most thoughts. Surveys completed in recent months by the Pew Internet & American Life Project found that nearly one-fifth of teens who have access to the Web have their own blogs. In addition, 38 percent of teens say they read other people's blogs. One Pew survey released this spring found that 79 percent of teens agreed that people their age aren't careful enough when giving out information about themselves online.

For the non-facebook savvy, Facebook.com was founded almost two years ago by Mark Zuckerberg, a student at Harvard University. Zuckerberg is a computer programmer who is known for creating the Facebook, an online directory for students. At the end of his sophomore year, he took a leave of absence and moved to Palo Alto, CA to work on Facebook with his college roommates. The initial purpose of the website was to keep in contact with students around campus; soon after, Facebook.com became a social networking website for thousands of students spread over 3,000 college campuses worldwide. With more than four million members, students join the site where they can find long lost friends, post their names, photos, interests, and personal details for others to see.

The creator of Myspace is Tom Anderson. He is regarded as the face of MySpace, and he has set up the site so it will add him to the friend's list of every new member. This way, he can help new members get started if they need any help. Anderson attended the University of California, Berkeley from 1993 to 1996 and graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in English & Rhetoric. In 2003, he and a few computer programmers set up the first pages of MySpace, and the site grew from there. It is currently one of the most popular social networking websites on the Internet. Similar to Facebook, members can post blogs and pictures, play music, and search for people to request as friends.

Most of these sites give students the ability to keep in touch with other students from high school, find old friends from as far back as kindergarten, or make new friends. However, by providing such easy access to people, it also gives ex-boyfriends or girlfriends a clear path to their former flames, it allows pedophiles to gain access to their next victims, and it allows administrators information to make the big bust on an unauthorized party on school grounds easier.



Photograph by Jackie Lynch

Cara McAloon takes time to browse MySpace from her laptop.

The majority of college campuses have provided Facebook for their students to access; however, recently the University of New Mexico said no. UNM both confused and disappointed many of its 26,000 students when they made the decision to ban access to Facebook.com on its campus network late in October. UNM officials said the ban may be revoked if some of their concerns are addressed, specifically questions about the website's level of security. Facebook spokesperson, Chris Hughes, said his company wrote to university officials to discuss their concerns about privacy issues and hope to make the website available on campus, although as of a week later Hughes said the university had yet to respond.

Schools that have allowed access to these sites have put out strict warnings for students. These warnings are not to keep a tight leash on students. It is to protect the students and their identities. Schools and the websites have told students not to post any specific contact information, such as phone numbers or addresses. They also tell students to act with caution when approving friends they are not familiar with. These new sites peppered with little tidbits of information are a pervert's Christmas turkey. They will eat up every bit that users display and use it to get to the wish bone.

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

BY CYNTHIA MALONE
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

As Christmas is quickly approaching, some may be counting down the days until Santa and his reindeer arrive, while others are preparing for the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.
Around the world, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways. According to Randy Classingham of Eclectic Esosteria, in Austria, they wait for "Kristkindl," the golden haired baby with wings who symbolizes the newborn Christ. In England, families wait patiently for the Queen's Christmas message to broadcast on the radio and television. On Christmas Eve in Italy, viewing of the artistic and elaborate manger scenes is something special they do. They consist of figurines, in clay or plaster, of the infant Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

All around the globe, no matter what religion or culture, people are preparing for the Christmas season. In America, which is referred to as the melting pot, a mixture of all nations blended together, Christmas festivities would indicate just that. Carols originated from England and Australia, Santa's red suit began in Scandinavia, and his arrival through the chimney to fill stockings came from the Netherlands. The typical feasting comes from all nations. During Ancient times, American Indians held religious dances to coincide with winter solstice. Franciscan monks succeeded in bringing this Indian celebration and the Christmas day together.
The Appalachian Mountains brought about one of the most popular Christmas carols, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." This was originally a counting song of magical or pagan origin, and no one seems to know what it originally meant. However, it is still popular and is the theme of many Christmas cards and displays.

Many Saint Leo students have warm memories of holiday traditions.

"My family always goes to Gainesville to see the Christmas lights, especially this one house that is on a lot of property. It's always fun to go and look at the lights!" said Terri Pfister. "Every year, my family and I always go ice skating in Ocala and go to the Melting Pot for dinner afterwards. That is something I always look forward to every year."

Gregory Bozza said his family "plays Christmas carols and sings together while decorating the Christmas tree."

In whatever way students choose to spend the holiday season, keep friends and families close.

And the savior was born...

Photograph by Jackie Lynch

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by

Yet in they dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Oh holy child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sins and enter in
Be born to us today

O morning starts together
Proclaim thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

O hear thy sacred angels
As faith holds wide the door
Then darkness wakes, the glory breaks
As Christmas comes once more

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A wall of graffiti

Students have created a graffiti wall to help better understand cultures.

BY DANIEL SPECHT
Lions' Pride Staff writer

SAINT LEO - The wall of boxes in the Café means more than you think. The Culturally Relevant Teaching class (EDU 222) has created a graffiti wall as a project to better understand cultures, as well as help hurricane victims. The class created the wall with two parts. The first part is a series of murals in which members of the class wrote messages on at the end of each class. Each message was an opinion on how to be more accepting and caring for those of different cultures.

Professor Christy McLaughlin, who teaches the class, was proud how the students found they were all different, yet accepted each other.

"My favorite part of the graffiti wall is the energy it's generating," said McLaughin. "Mostly, it's revealing the diversity among 'alikes.' "Every progressing moment has revealed another individual's success."

She also explained how the idea of the graffiti wall originated.

"Educator Pablo Frere's Pedagogy of the Oppressed inspired the purpose of our graffiti wall. But, it quickly morphed into this bright-eyed collaboration. The students focused on New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina with creativity and action," she said.

Messages on the wall include: "embrace diversity," "Be proud of who you are; I know I am," and "I feel bad about what (Hurricane Katrina) has happened." They even got creative with it by bringing in other things to put on the wall, such as news articles and song lyrics. The news articles that were put onto the wall were about the recent deaths of Rosa Parks and August Wilson. Rosa Parks was a civil rights activist and August Wilson was a playwright who wrote plays with cultural themes.

"I copied the lyrics to 'Fix You' by Coldplay because I think that song reflects what the Hurricane Katrina victims feel, and it offers a great sense of hope," Kathi Ackerman, a sophomore, said when talking about the wall. "Everyone wrote truly inspirational things on the wall - things that would get me thinking about how I perceive things."

Part two of the graffiti wall was made up of decorated banana boxes. Each student spray painted a box to be filled with items for the hurricane victims. The students painted words like peace, hope, and love on their boxes.

Ashley Sims, a senior in the class, put peace and hope on her box. "I'm optimistic for America and hope to see changes soon."

Items put into the boxes varied from bags, clothing, food, and cleaning supplies. Even a teddy bear from Emily Wing, a student in the class, was included in the boxes.

When asked what the graffiti wall meant to her, Kathi Ackerman replied, "I think the graffiti wall is a representation of our unity as a class. It shows all our opinions and reflections, and even though they sometimes differ, they are a part of our diversity and acceptance of one another."

McLaughlin compared their wall to the Harlem-side Art Walls of the George Washington Bridge.

When asked what the wall meant to her, Ashley Sims replied, "Saint Leo is diverse. America is diverse. Embrace Diversity." She even pointed out the irony of their wall. "Our wall doesn't divide; our wall brings us together."

Graduate Record Exam changing content

The GRE is changing its format starting in October 2006, and students need to be aware of certain changes before they take the test.

BY FRANCINE ROSARIO
Lions' Pride Staff writer

SAINT LEO - The test that allows college students to make a transition to graduate school, the GRE, is due to make drastic changes in October 2006.

The current GRE, a computer adaptive test, is expensive to administer, and this is the real reason the test is changing. The ETS organization, the creator of many exams like the GRE and SAT, will revise the content of all 3 sections of the test: analytical writing, verbal, and quantitative. It will be considerably longer, four hours instead of the current 2.5 hours. It will be offered on specific dates, like the SAT, instead of ongoing dates; the plan is to offer it 30 dates per year. Anyone who takes the test on any given day will be given the same questions.

The company that does the scoring, AWA, will keep the current score 0-6; however, test takers will receive quantitative and verbal scores on a scale of about 120 to 170. As far as admissions go, the change has to happen first to see how admissions will be affected. However, it is expected that for the year 2006-2007 schools will probably accept both or either scores of the new and old exams.

"I suspect the change will not affect students too much since they will all be taking the same test and compared to each other on a standardized scale," said Dr. Christopher Cronin, chair of the psychology department. "Either way, students considering graduate school should prepare for the GRE through either a course or on their own. Students should plan on taking the GRE during the summer after their junior year and should plan on taking the test only once since all scores are sent to prospective graduate schools."

The Princeton Review, who offers study material for students, advises that students take the exam they're most familiar with, which for most people will be the current GRE.

Gary Bracken, director of Admissions at Saint Leo University, approved of the changes of the test.

"It goes along with what ETS is trying to do, focus more on writing and quantitative skills and less on vocabulary;

Bracken said, "Students will be tested more on what they know; this will allow them to present themselves better."

So now that the test is changing, many different opinions are raised. Liz Wands, the director of Graduate Marketing for the Princeton Review disagreed with the idea that ETS is trying to make a more valid test.

"The new GRE will contain new question types that have never been tested on any standardized exam, take an hour and a half longer to complete, get scored on a new scale, and be less convenient for students to take. How is that a more valid test?" Wands said. "ETS is making test takers jump through hoops to save money."

So, how should students prepare for GRE? The same way they always have.

"We're investing tremendous resources into a new GRE prep course. Students who are taking the new GRE should not be afraid of it," said Wands. "It simply requires a different set of test-taking skills. We'll be 100% ready for the new test and plan on offering courses preparing for the new GRE next summer."

Online exams may be a trend for the future

Some universities are testing the technology with the concept of online exams for their students.

BY FRANCINE ROSARIO
Lions' Pride Staff writer

The new trend in exam taking is to do it online. A recent poll indicated that more than 15 million tests were taken online via the Blackboard Academic Suite. Blackboard is the leading provider of software and services to the education industry.

"Taking exams online represents only a small portion of how technology is enriching the academic experience, yet it provides a clear example of how education is no longer definitively tied to a physical classroom space," said Michael Chasen, president and CEO of Blackboard. "Blackboard is thrilled to be part of this evolution, enabling innovation among academic institutions all over."

This newfound ability could and has already allowed students to take final exams whenever they want within an allotted time frame from their professors. It allows them to beat traffic or whatever they may encounter when going home for the holidays. If they were to miss an exam because they were sick or because of any other circumstances, they can take the exam later when they are home in better shape and even while the school is closed.

"I wouldn't mind taking an exam online," said junior Darius Lewis. "I would probably cheat though, so imagine how many people would do the same…it would probably be morally wrong."

Othera agree with Lewis.

"I would love to take an exam online where there's no pressure," said junior Crystal Keys. "I hate feeling like I need to rush because I don't want to be the last in the room. If I take an exam online it would be at my own pace."

Since opening an online testing center in 2002 at the University of Missouri, 25,000 exams have been taken online.

"The online testing feature available through Blackboard has enabled many of our classes to offer students the convenience, flexibility, and accessibility of online testing as an integral part of their academic experience," said Robert Keel, lecturer in the department of sociology, and specialist for Information Technology services at University of Missouri-St. Louis.

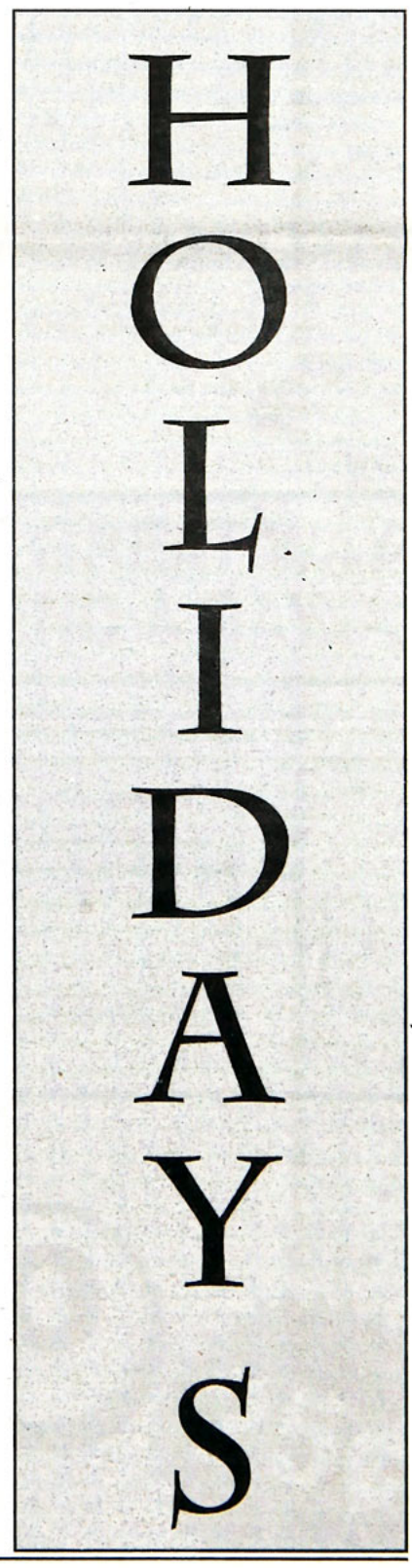
Online exams are not only for universities; high schools are doing it too. Janet Purnell, a teacher at Digital Harbor High School, had a student last holiday season who needed to go to South America and was able to finish her class via the Blackboard suite.

"We communicated via email, and she kept up with all the online assignments, which I posted in Blackboard," said Purnell. "I simply told her the time when the midterm would be available, and she was able to take the exam in South America.

Both the student and her parents were pleased that she could keep up with the work, even though she was out of the country."

Not all professors agree with Purnell.

"We would have no idea who is sitting taking the test," said Dr. Terry Danner, chair and professor of the Criminal Justice Department. "Although it would be the same concept of taking an exam online for an online class, taking an online test for a regular class is not a good idea."



Arts & Entertainment

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

BY JENNIFER REILLY
Lions' Pride Editor

If Tampa is your home or you are settled here for the holidays, entertainment is plentiful and the spirit of Christmas is overflowing the Tampa streets and attractions.

The celebrations seem to begin around December 9 when Universal Islands of Adventure hosts "Grinchmas." The festival is based on the classic Dr. Seuss book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and the fuzzy green character known as the Grinch makes a daily appearance. The area of Islands of Adventure, known as Seuss Landing, is converted into a winter wonderland featuring the beloved Whos of Whoville and Christmas decorations galore. The Whos gather daily for a Whobilation, a musical depiction of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

In addition to live entertainment and an overall feeling of joy and holiday glee, "Grinchmas" offers a traditional feast in the Circus McGurkus Café Stoo-pendous. The festivities do not end until January 1, so the opportunity for Saint Leo students to attend lasts 23 days.

"My family just moved here to Tampa, so I'll be going home for the holidays. I've never been to Universal, but Grinchmas sounds like fun," said Ashley-Jo Murry.

"I've always wanted to go," said Sierra Yeargan, who resides in Spring Hill.

Universal Islands of Adventure also has the Macy's Day parade and a tree lighting ceremony every night from December 9 through January 1. City Walk on the outskirts of Universal Studios has carriage rides around the city, snow falling from the sky, and opportunities to take pictures with Santa Clause.

Universal is not the only provider of holiday fun and celebrations. Tampa's Channelside has a nightly snow fall and Christmas tree lighting lasting all month. There is also a lighted boat parade across the Tampa Bay.

Close to Channelside is the Henry B. Plant Museum on the University of Tampa campus, which features its 24th Annual Victorian Christmas Stroll. Stroll through 19th century Victorian Christmas at the Tampa Bay Hotel and see lavishly decorated trees, gifts, and decorations.

Across the Hillsborough River, the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center is featuring a production of "Christmas Cabaret" in the Jaeb Theater. This show is running from November 25- December 18.

Even closer than Tampa, charming Dade City will host its annual "Christmas on Church Street" December 21- 22 featuring luminaries, life size Christmas cards, and a home decorating contest.

"It's a very traditional, family-oriented, Christmas celebration with Christmas concerts, hot chocolate, and games for children," said San Antonio resident Christie Ricardo. "You always see people you know and you can't help but stop to chat," she added excitedly.

As this Christmas approaches quickly, gather loved ones and take advantage of the loving environment the holiday creates in Tampa, Dade City, or your own hometown.

Universal Islands of Adventure 2004
Meet the Grinch and his dog, Max,see the Whos from Dr. Seuss' "Whoville," and enjoy the nightly Whoville Whobilation Show during the Grinchmas celebration.

DATES, TIMES & CONTACT NUMBERS:
Channelside: (813) 223-4250
· Snow fall: Nov. 19-Dec. 31; 10 minute display at 6 p.m. 7 p.m., 8 p.m. & 9 p.m.
· Lighted Boat Parades: Saturdays Dec. 3 & 17; 6:30 p.m. launch with 7 p.m. arrival in Garrison Channel.
HB Plant Museum: http://www.plantmuseum.com (813) 258-7302
· Victorian Christmas Stroll: Dec. 2-Dec. 23; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.
· Shopping: Monday Nov. 7; 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center:(813) 22-7827

Amphitheatre and EPC finally team up

Photo Credit Google Images

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
Lion's Pride Staff Writer

The Ford Amphitheatre, brought to you by Clear Channel Entertainment, has become a very popular theatre for concerts and many other types of feature presentations. The theatre was first constructed in 2004 and opened in mid-July. The theatre is located on a hill which provides concert seating for 9,900 and lawn tickets for about 10,000 people. The outdoor Ford Amphitheatre is set against the backdrop of the State Fair Grounds. Two 20 x 30 foot giant screens provide video reinforcement to the entire venue making the amphitheatre experience more enjoyable. Events have included concert performances by Korn; Earth, Wind, and Fire; Toby Keith; and Jimmy Buffet. But these shows don't come without a bundle of traffic and an immense amount of noise pollution, and since the opening of this hot spot, citizens have been flooding complaints to local officials asking for the theatre to turn down the volume.

In recent months the theatre's surrounding neighborhoods have been complaining about the amount of noise the amphitheatre brings to their quiet suburban community. Peace and quiet is all they are asking for; however, business says that is easier said then done. The plaintiffs have been at war in this on-going debate with Clear Channel Entertainment for almost a year, and they are about to reach a compromise that does not involve turning the volume down or turning their back on the community.

On Thursday, November 17, Hillsborough County approved a settlement between the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) and Clear Channel Communications, owner of the Ford Amphitheatre, and the Florida State Fair Authority over noise levels produced by concerts at the amphitheater and the fairgrounds.

There were two agreements made in this out-of-court settlement, as explained by Rick Tschantz, general counsel at the EPC. Lawsuits were dismissed in exchange for Clear Channel's agreement to build a 70-foot-high sound barrier wall at a $2.5 million cost. There are still details to work out about the design of the sound barrier that will surround the 20,000-seat outdoor arena. And, there will be a wait until at least Sept. 30 to begin monitoring a minimum of ten concerts to learn if the barrier works.

The other compromise involves trying to salvage the noise before the sound barrier is built. Clear Channel Entertainment has agreed to change the way the performers can stack their speakers, putting them down lower on the floor. The company also agreed to contribute $50,000 to EPC so they will be able to monitor sound levels. Clear Channel Entertainment agreed to establish a community advisory committee, which EPC is to be involved in. A key legal provision, Tschantz said, is that Clear Channel agreed to give up the fight on whether the EPC had the jurisdiction to regulate the sound.

Clear Channel Entertainment does not see them as giving up the fight to loud music. They are simply compromising with EPC so they might be able to have smooth relations with them, if ever they have issues in the future.

'Sisterhood' never dies

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
Lion's Pride Staff Writer

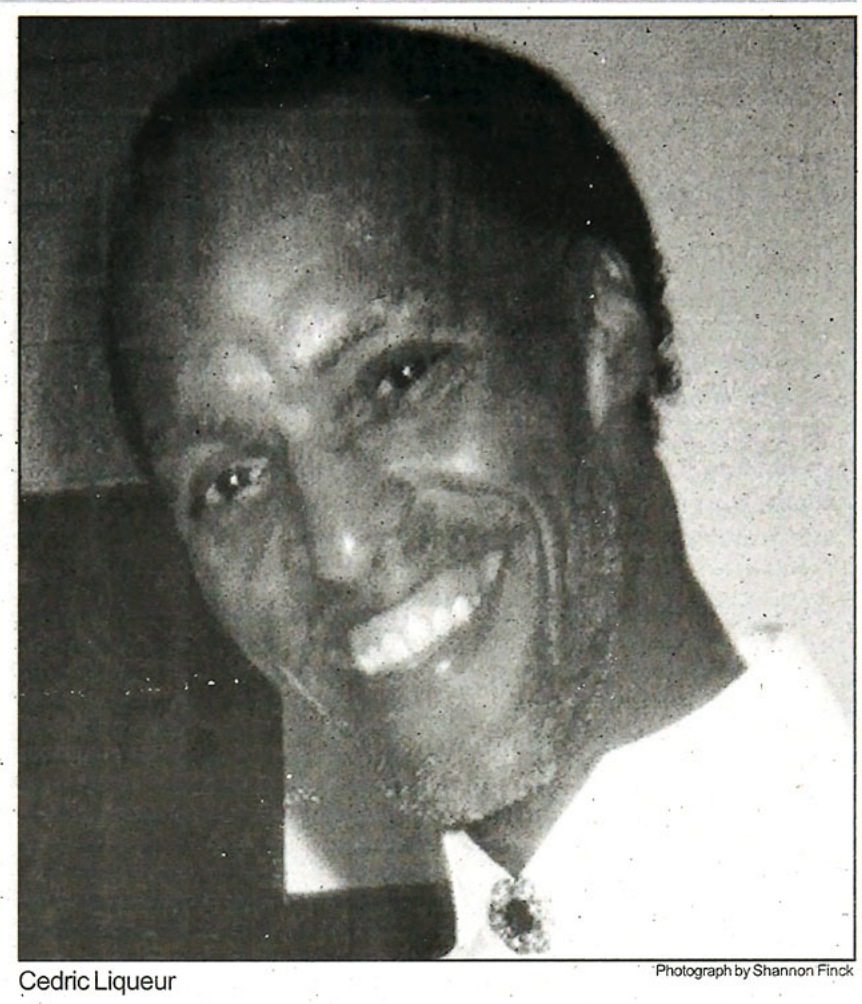
For the hordes of teenage girls who have worn out the pages of Ann Brashares's 2001 young-adult novel *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, let's get the major change-ups out of the way: Tibby isn't petite, Lena's grandparents hate Kostas right out of the gate, Bridget can not seem to get two things off her mind, sports and boys, and Carmen never thought she would have to sacrifice her summer in order to produce a better relationship with her dad. "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" is a mother/daughter movie about four 17-year-old best friends separated for the first time, but symbolically linked together by a pair of second-hand jeans they share by mail.

Here is the biggest shocker, though. The movie version of *Sisterhood* is a sweet, wise, warm, charming, superbly-acted summer adventure, not to mention remarkably true to Brashares's characters and values. It may not be the movie to take your boyfriend to, unless you want him to go kicking and screaming, but as female-bonding comfort food goes, *Sisterhood* is that rare meal both adolescent girls and their mothers will be able to agree on.

The fab four have been together for their whole lives, and with so many things about to change, they are about to be apart for the first time. Beautiful, delicate Lena, played by Alexis Bledel of ABC Family's *Gilmore Girls*, is going to stay with her grandparents on the Greek isle of Santorini. Bridget, played by a newcomer Blake Lively, is a blond, queen-bee jock headed for soccer camp in Mexico. Carmen, played by America Ferrera of *Real Women Have Curves*, is a budding writer insecure in body and mind; she's finally going to spend some quality time with her estranged father in Charleston, S.C. Tibby, played by Amber Tamblyn of *Joan of Arcadia*, is the resident cynical punkette and the movie's closest approximation to an authentic teen rebel; she is stuck working at the local chain megastore while shooting a documentary about her summer.

Despite the differences between them and the distance they have to bear over the summer, they discover a pair of stone washed jeans at a thrift store that somehow magically fits them all. So using the pants as their only connection, they are mailed from one girl to another every two weeks. There are additional rules — no laundering, no double-cuffing, and no letting anybody but you take them off. They could've added, no admitting the pants are a metaphor for life's unexpected growth experiences, but that would give the game away.

In every case where the movie is based on a book, not all of it can be illustrated in the production. However, the warm and fuzzy theme is still present and will make you cry and laugh during this PG-rated picture running an hour and 59 minutes. This touching plot line is all you need to understand why the book was written in the first place; the bond between friends can neither be broken nor destroyed.



Cedric Liqueur

Photograph by Shannon Finck

Lone Wolf: An inside look at the performer, Cedric Liqueur

SHANNON FINCK
Special to The Lions' Pride

When I first asked Cedric, at the conclusion of his performance at Saint Leo, to conduct an interview with me that would lead to a sort of personal, human interest piece, he politely declined. He said he doesn't really like to do those sorts of pieces, and he, furthermore, doesn't ever read what has been written about him.

"They are like rolling credits," he said, "things people just glance at, and I don't want to be something or someone people briefly glance at and then look away. It's nice if people look deeper. Artists are far more than their works; there is more going on in thought than in performance.'

So, I pushed the envelope a little. I asked, "How about I ask you no questions other than those I personally wish to be answered, and you can tell Saint Leo whatever you think is important for them to know in order to understand you." To that, the mysterious Cedric Liqueur agreed. This article is exactly what Cedric believes is important, nothing more and nothing less.

Cedric says what is most important in his work is clarity; and by this, he means creating an image for an audience, and then finding many ways of viewing that image. This is not simply words, movement, sounds, and ambience, but many combinations of these kinds of things in order to create art. He compares his work to a painting. It requires many colors, but if one gets too close, the whole is obscured by the parts. That is why Cedric Liqueur prefers that people keep their distance.

While on the topic of people keeping their distance, I asked Cedric why he opts to travel and perform alone.

"When I became an actor early on, when I realized I was not going to make a lot of money, I realized that I was going to be by myself most of the time," he said. "I didn't really know how I felt about this until I saw a documentary about wolves in the wild. There was this group following a pack of wolves and studying their behavior when they came upon a wolf pup by himself. The pack left, and the little pup was whimpering and alone. The group of biologists did not know what to do because you shouldn't try to take in stray wolves as it would serve to disallow him from surviving on his own, but they took him in anyway, and every time they encountered other packs of wolves, they would let him free, and he would run to them. But they would always leave him behind. Finally, the mother of one pack turned around and looked at him, and the pup came to her, and she took him in. But the pup was called 'Solo.' It touched me so much that I wrote it down on a piece of paper, just the word 'solo,' and I still have it eight years later. It was what influenced me to work solo and travel solo until I find a place where I belong."

Cedric does everything alone, "but not in a sad sense," he said. He is comfortable by himself both on and offstage.

"It isn't a bad thing," he said. "It's best not to give in to fear of being by oneself."

Cedric said that he does have the desire to stay in one place sometimes and to have creature comforts, but he notices that when he stays in one place too long, he gets an itch to move on and do new things. He gets energy from starting anew.

"Many artists do this. Out there is where you survive and earn your living, and many of your ideas come from the people and places you meet out there," Cedric said. "Situations where survival is required teaches you lots of things. Facing life is more important than running from it; it teaches you what good friends are and how to believe in your own abilities."

The most important thing to functioning as a traveling artist, in Cedric's opinion, is networking with others who are doing the same thing to prevent struggling.

He travels constantly, stopping in November or December in Florida to write, then he moves on to South Carolina and writes more for a new season. He usually leaves there in late January with all of his writing done, and he memorizes as he travels before starting all over again each year.

Cedric always thinks, "I've got three seconds to convince them [the audience] that this [what he's performing] is true, even if it's not. First impressions count because it is those few seconds in which people make up their minds. You have to be at your very best from moment number one. That's what makes you memorable."

In closing, at Cedric's request, he would like to remind us that he is just starting out, and he is still learning. He finds it difficult to find the right words for something that cannot be expressed in words alone, but he knows, "that we all have gifts to bring to the world, and some of us make an extra effort to share those gifts with others. Everyone in the audience is important, that they see, feel, and commune together, not necessarily understanding everything."

Cedric does not see himself as being separate from the audience in any way. Nothing bothers him about the audience or venue; he wants things to exist as they are on a holistic level.

"People can laugh or cough, and they shouldn't change their habits. I can use it all: fire alarms, lighting issues - bring it on!" says Cedric with a smile. And that statement reflects his attitude about the world. Cedric embraces the world, shares his gifts with all whom he encounters, and shouts defiantly against all odds, "Life: bring it on!"

Sports

Dress code covers face of NBA

BY NIKII BROWN
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Dress code has always been a touchy subject. Should students be made to wear uniforms or should they have the freedom to choose their own outfit? Does it take away from individuality and freedom of expression? Will it solve problems or make problems worse?

The NBA has installed a new dress code for its players, and it has caused uproar among the league teams and fans. The dress code has been set up for times when the players are engaged in team or league business, at games, but not in uniform; leaving the arena; or making special appearances. In addition to the list of proper attire, there is a list of excluded items. The new dress code has many people thinking about the focus of the league.

"I think it's wrong because if they didn't have a dress code for all these years, why would they implement it now?" questions Saint Leo University basketball player Leonard Bates. "I think they are trying to be more like the MLB and NFL instead of having their own identity."

The new policy, as stated on NBA.com, says players are to wear business casual attire when involved in team or league business. Business casual is defined as: "A long or short sleeved dress shirt (collard or turtleneck), and or sweater. Dress Slacks, khaki pants, or dress jeans. Appropriate shoes and socks, including dress shoes, dress boots, or other presentable shoes, but not including sneakers, sandals, flip-flops, or work boots."

When players are at the games, but not in uniform, they must wear a sport coat, dress shoes or boots, and socks, in addition to the items listed under business casual attire. Players who are leaving the arena are required to wear either business casual or "neat" warm-ups issued by their teams. Exceptions can be made for players who make special appearances, such as basketball clinics or previously set-up autograph signings, if other attire is appropriate.

However, how is appropriate or presentable defined? Everyone has their own idea of what each is and who's to say the NBA players didn't think they were already wearing appropriate attire? The jerseys, sneakers, and chains are the players' styles, and it has become the NBA's. It has also made the NBA gear more popular with fans wanting to wear the team gear like their favorite players. Taking away their freedom to wear what they choose is taking away their identity.

The NBA players are not allowed to wear the following items: sleeveless shirts, shorts, t-shirts, jerseys, or sports apparel unless it's appropriate for a special event and approved by the team. They also cannot wear chains, pendants, or medallions over their clothes, as well as any type of headgear during interviews, or while sitting on the bench or in the stands.

This attire that has been excluded is considered hip hop style, but hip hop has become the face of the NBA. With video games and commercials featuring NBA players wearing such hip hop style gear, it be seen as contradictory. Commercials show players selling all types of sneakers with hip hop music in the background. NBA players, such as Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, have recorded hip hop tracks, and hip hop artists Jay-Z and Nelly are part owners of basketball teams; hip hop is definitely part of the NBA. In some video games players can pick what their characters wear and what tattoos they have. Games such as EA Sports NBA Live give players these options; more designers are adding this feature to their games to attract buyers. This feature has stemmed to EA Sports NCAA Basketball.

It's bringing in money and fan support, but it's being put down. NBA Live 06 sells for $39.95- $59.95, depending on the game system. In 2004, NBA Live was ranked seventh in the most popular sold games with $2.4 billion being spent on EA Sports video games. In November, NBA Live reached platinum status surpassing $1 billion spent on its games. The face of NBA is attracting fans and putting a sport coat on it is doing nothing but covering that face up. Enforcing a dress code for the league will not eliminate any issues, but how the players look; attitude and actions do not come from the clothes they wear.

Fall sports finale

BY MATTHEW MCGOWAN
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - All of the fall sports have now concluded. This past season has let Saint Leo University athletics have many new awards, accolades, and accomplishments, both individually and for the teams. The men's and women's soccer teams, cross country teams, and women's volleyball team all did well. The school's athletic program was able to capture its first Sunshine State Conference championship this season by the men's soccer program who edged out eight other teams for the title.

The men's soccer team had their record setting year brought to an end on November 13 when they went down to Lynn University 3-1. At the end of their season, the Lions had worked their way up to a 15-1 record, good enough to earn a number two ranking in the nation according to the Associated Press poll and the Sunshine State Conference championship, this was the first ever for any sport in Saint Leo history. Seven players were named to the SSC Commissioner's List of Outstanding Achievement during the season. This honor is determined by the SSC Commissioner Michael J. Marcil. The players honored were freshman midfielder Eusebio Montoya, who had 9 goals and 9 assists; goalkeeper Matias Perez, who posted a 0.82 goals against average; forward Asmir Pervan, who ended the season with 22 goals and 7 assists for 51 points; senior captain Giancarlo Conte, who played solid and added a goal; sophomore defender Josh McKenna, who started all 17 games; senior defender Robert Pollock, who played well in defense and added an assist; and team captain defender Brent Stanze, who lead a defense that gave up only 13 goals during the regular season. Stanze and senior Danny Rissanen also earned honors by being named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District team. Pervan also was voted unanimously player-of-the-year and offensive player-of-the-year for the SSC, while Montoya was selected freshman-of-the-year. Coach Joel Harrison was voted coach-of-the-year in his second season at the helm for the Lions. Pervan, Stanze, and Perez were named to the SSC all conference first team, while Montoya was chosen to the second team. Conte was an honorable mention choice.

Lost in the excitement of the men's program is how well the women's soccer team did this year. The team went 9-4-2 overall for the season and finished third in the SSC with a 5-1-1 record. Sophomore midfielder Jane Seedhouse was the only Saint Leo player named first team, All-SSC. Freshman sensation goalkeeper, Lauren Hudson, was chosen to the second team. Seedhouse was the back bone of the Lion defense on the women's side and was also an offensive threat. The Lions allowed only 17 goals in 13 matches. She was the fifth leading scorer on the team with three goals for six points. Hudson played 1,250 minutes, with three shutouts and a 1.22 goals against average.

The volleyball team ended their season on a high note defeating Eckerd College. This win brought them to a 12-18 record for the season and a 6-9 record for conference play. Stand out players for the Lions during the season were senior Nikki Prack, who averaged 3.9 digs a game in nine matches for the volleyball team. She was named to the SSC Commissioner's List of Outstanding Achievement for the month of October. Other seniors who played their last season for the Lions were Eva Thompson, who had 177 digs for the season; Morgan Mander, who had 76 digs for the season; and Kristin Mondientz, who finished the season with 179 kills and 23 assists.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday. We look forward to the New Year.